

The National Cooperative Observer Newsletter



WINTER 1989

VOLUME 7

NUMBER 2

EASTERN REGION

SOUTHERN REGION

CENTRAL REGION



WESTERN REGION

ALASKA REGION

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NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Under Secretary for
Oceans and Atmosphere
Washington, D.C. 20230

AUG 14 1989


MEMORANDUM FOR: ALL NOAA STAFF

On August 7 I was sworn in as Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator. For me it signals the beginning of an exciting new chapter in an association with NOAA and its component groups that goes back many years. As a member of the Stratton Commission, I, along with Bob White, NOAA's first Administrator, helped write the report that led directly to the formation of NOAA in 1970. I pledge that I will work with you to help NOAA achieve the goals laid out some 20 years ago and to help chart our course for the future.

We have many missions and many responsibilities in NOAA. We map and monitor the earth and the skies; we predict the weather and natural disasters; we manage the fisheries and protect endangered marine mammals; and we operate the world's largest environmental data system. But, if I had to summarize our agency in a single phrase it would be as the Nation's "earth-systems" agency. Our responsibilities for environmental monitoring, understanding, prediction and data acquisition and dissemination are global. At a time of increased public concern about the environment, I see it as one of my responsibilities to raise public and institutional awareness of NOAA's role in these matters.

The challenges of today are daunting. Our earth is now the home for more than five billion people and demographers predict a doubling in the next century. Equally important is the fact that nearly all of us have boundless aspirations for improving our standard of living. This planet is being stressed, and I expect that in spite of our best efforts that stress can only increase. One of our tasks is to measure the environmental effects of humankind on this planet and to separate the natural variations from the anthropogenic, whether it be fish populations, shore line change or the temperature of the earth. Our goal is to accurately predict those changes, so that those agencies and organizations with policy responsibilities, such as NOAA, can best respond.

NOAA has had an illustrious past and it has an exciting future. It has been the home of a number of my scientific heroes, from Lt. Pillsbury and Spencer F. Baird in the last century to Elton Sette and Joe Smagorinsky in this one, and it continues to be the home for a number of this nation's most important earth scientists. To meet the challenges of the future we will need to continue the tradition of recruiting and retaining the brightest and most dedicated to work with us, both in NOAA and through universities and the private sector. We can only be as effective as our people, and our people must have the opportunity to excel. The task is large. The resources are limited. We must establish priorities, and in doing so we must not let the daily fire drills overwhelm our long term goals. I need your help. I know I can count on you. Together, we can do the job.


John A. Knauss
THE ADMINISTRATOR



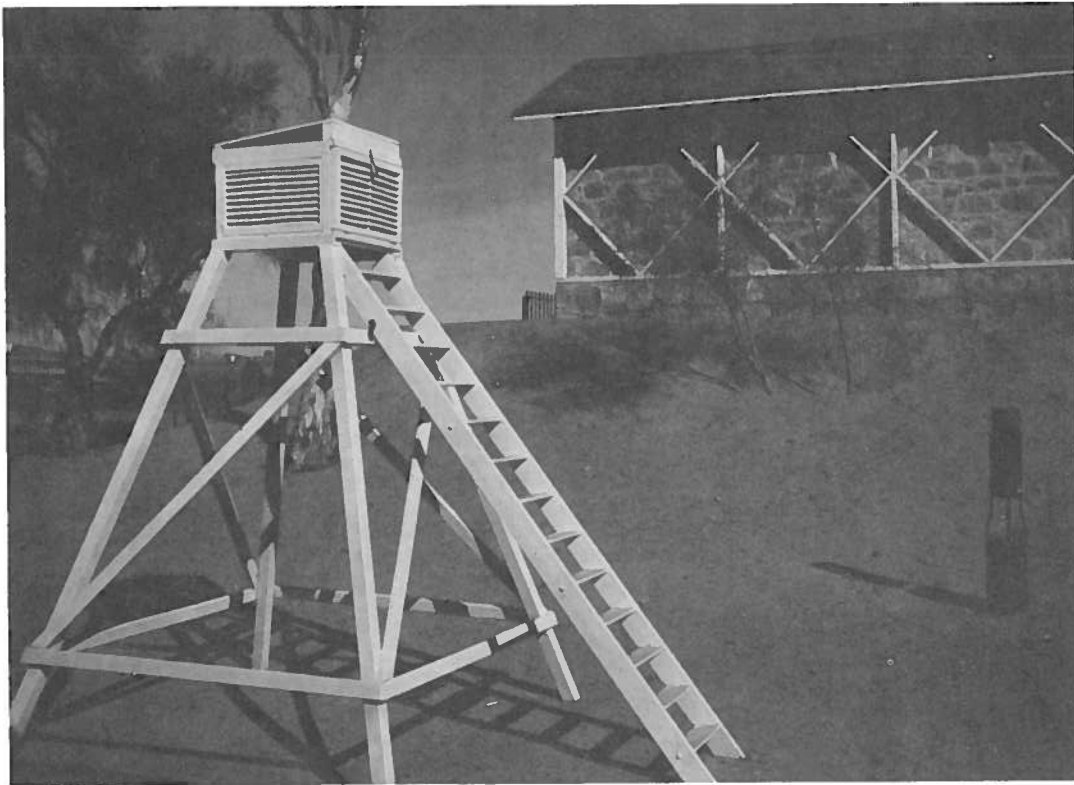
75 Years Stimulating America's Progress ★ 1913-1988

ABOUT THE COVER: Ms. Henrietta Brandt, observer at Walhalla, SC, is so proud of the awards she has received she has them prominently displayed. The photo shows the Thomas Jefferson and John Campanius Holm Awards along with a mantel clock that was a wedding gift to her parents, Mr. & Mrs. H.W. Brandt on March 18, 1903, and it's still running. This is an example of how the weather plays an important role in all our observers' lives and we of the National Weather Service are fortunate to have observers such as Ms. Brandt and all 11,000 observers throughout the United States.

The NATIONAL COOPERATIVE OBSERVER NEWSLETTER (NCON) is published quarterly as a tool linking the National Weather Service (NWS) with nearly 11,000 cooperative observers nationwide. Photographs and text are collected by NWS Headquarters from the various regions and provided to the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) for publication. Copies are provided to observers in partial recognition of their contribution to the climatic history of the United States. Subscriptions to this publication are not available.

NCDC PUBLICATION STAFF
S.C. Lackey

WESTERN REGION



A picture of an exact replica of an 1870's version of a CRS; made from an old picture. It is located at the Yuma Quartermaster Depot, an old Army fort.



George H. Luebke (left), Froid, MT, received the Edward H. Stoll award for fifty years of continuous and exceptional service. The award was presented by Clarence "Mike" Chamberlain (right), Acting Cooperative Program Manager and Official in Charge, Havre WSO, at a gathering in Mr. Luebke's honor. Among the attendees were several other officials of the National Weather Service. They were David E. Olsen, Montana Area Manager, Great Falls; Curtis Smith, Official in Charge, Glasgow; and Pat Allard, Official in Charge, Williston, ND weather office.

Mr. Luebke says he intends to continue weather observing for many years to come. It is strong dedication like his which makes the Cooperative Program in Montana the success it is.

COOPERATIVE OBSERVER AWARDS - WESTERN REGION

Individual

10 Years

Dennis Barnes
Mr. and Mrs. Leo Dexter
Clint Dietz
R.J. Durrett
Diane Ehman
Virginia Ellingson
June Kalberg

Santaquin, UT
Fiddletown, CA
Plevna, MT
Yorkville, CA
Mildred, MT
Baker, MT
Gibson, MT

15 Years

Luana Reed

Badger, CA

30 Years

Hazel Patek

Bridger, MT



The Magma Copper Company, Pinto Valley Division, received an Institutional award for 75 years of service at Miami, AZ. Gloria Courtney accepted the certificate from CPM Irv Haynes, Weather Service Forecast Office, Phoenix.

WESTERN REGION



The Salt River Project Utility Company received a 50-year Institutional length-of-service award for their station at Bartlett Dam, AZ. Marty Grant, current observer, accepted the award. He and Mike Charlebois have kept the weather records at Bartlett Dam for the last five years.



Harold Orcutt, South Phoenix, AZ, received a 25-year length-of-service award from WSFO Phoenix. Mr. Orcutt's weather station is in a "cooler" area of the Valley of the Sun. When the Phoenix airport set a new record for the season's earliest 110 degrees maximum on May 8, his maximum thermometer only recorded 105 degrees!



The State of Arizona Commission of Agriculture and Horticulture received a Special Service award for their station at historic Ehrenberg, located in southern Arizona on the Colorado River. In behalf of his crew of inspectors, Art Hernandez (left), accepted the award which was presented by Irv Haynes.



Poway (CA) Fire Department received a 25-year Institutional award for their Poway Valley station. Fire Marshall Kraus (left) accepted the award from Wilbur Shigehara, Meteorologist in Charge, San Diego Weather Service Office.



The Tsinnie family, Tuba City, AZ, received a Special Service award, which was accepted by V. Tsinnie, a supervisory nurse at the hospital. Tuba City, located on a high desert plateau in northern Arizona, receives only about six inches of precipitation annually.



Gloria Walker (left), accepted a 25-year length-of-service award presented to Gold Rock Ranch, Winterhaven, CA. Wilbur Shigehara (right), MIC, San Diego WSO, presented the award.

WESTERN REGION



Louise B. Hallberg, Graton, CA, received a 20-year length-of-service award presented by CPM Rick Orres. Louise, who has retired from her position in the registrar's office of a junior college, now spends much of her time working in her botanical garden and growing plants for the California Native Plant Society.



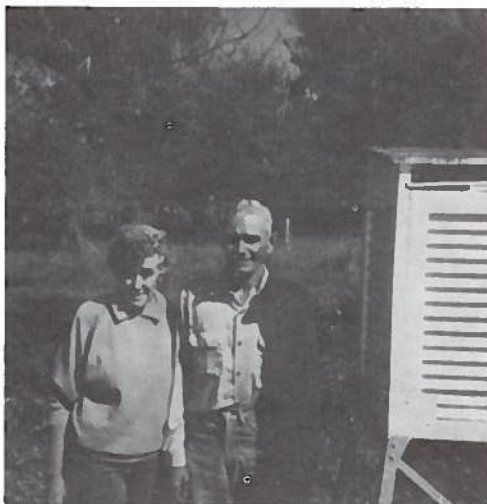
John Kane, Pryor, MT, was presented a 20-year length-of-service award. Mr. Kane keeps daily precipitation records and telephones the forecast office daily when heavy rains bring threat of flooding. Mr. Kane's reports are a valuable tool in forecasting stream flooding, amply demonstrated during the flood of 1978.



Tom Kohler accepted a 15-year length-of-service award for his wife Bev of the station Honeydew 1 SW, CA.



Don Smith, Wibaux, MT, was presented a 20-year length-of-service award. Don's father was the weather observer from 1946 to 1969, when Don took over the duties.



Mr. and Mrs. Jack Davis, Livingston 12 S, MT, were presented a 25-year length-of-service award. The Davis' take daily readings of temperature and precipitation at their ranch in Paradise Valley.



Arnold Sorenson, cooperative observer, Kremlin 3 S, MT, was presented a 15-year length-of-service award by Mike Chamberlain.

WESTERN REGION



The Unified Sewage Agency was presented a 25-year Institutional award for their Hillsboro station at Hillsboro, OR, about 18 miles west of Portland. Dave Lister, assistant Plant Superintendent (left), and Red Littleton, Plant Operator (right), accepted the award.



Clair Kamerrer, Mikkalo 6 W, OR, was presented a 25-year length-of-service award while in the middle of harvesting wheat. Clair is a wheat rancher in north-central Oregon.



Bill Etter, Pilot Rock 1 SE, OR, received a 35-year length-of-service award after a long day of harvesting wheat. Bill is a dryland wheat rancher in northeastern Oregon, 15 miles south of Pendleton.



Dan Bevan (left) accepted a 75-year Institutional award for Utah Power and Light Company at Snake Creek Power House near Heber, UT. The award was presented by William J. Alder (right), Area Manager for Utah. Dan received weather training as a boy from his uncle, Burdett Bevan at Tooele, UT, where the Bevan Family has been taking weather observations since 1908.



Marie Gurney, Reston, OR, received a 25-year length-of-service award presented by CPM Clint Jenson. Reston is in southwest Oregon near Roseburg.



Charles Copley (right), Coalville, UT, was presented a 40-year length-of-service award by William J. Alder (left). Mr. Copley, now 90 years young, received the Jefferson award in 1987.

WESTERN REGION



Doyle Moosman, Boulder, UT, was presented a 35-year award by CPM Dean Hirschi. Doyle still lives in his boyhood home which was built in 1899. Besides weather, he enjoys weaving rugs on an old-fashioned loom and taking his grandchildren fishing.



Clair Benson, Parowan (UT) Power Plant, was presented a 15-year length-of-service award by CPM Dean Hirschi.



Harold Ford (right) received a 25-year length-of-service award from William J. Alder (left). Harold is employed by the Provo Water Users Association and takes observations at Deer Creek Dam, UT.



Bryce Jackson, observer, (Fairview 8 N) Milburn, UT, received a 15-year length-of-service award. Bryce makes his living as a coal miner and also does some farming and ranching.



Dan Hickman, Snowville, UT, was presented a 20-year length-of-service award by CPM Dean Hirschi. Dan, soon to be 90, is a former mayor and a rancher who still appreciates good horses.



Rosa and Fred Geobel, Naches 10 NW, WA, were presented a 15-year length-of-service award by CPM Earl Pickering, Seattle WSFO.

Weather watcher retires

For 50 years Key has recorded local weather and its extremes: 115° in 1934 to -38° in 1936

For five decades Roberta Key has been keeping track of the weather in Winner.

Friday morning she was presented two very special honors. One was the Edward H. Stoll award and a 50 year service award which included a gold pin. The presentations were made at the Key home by David W. Olkiewicz, cooperative program manager for the National Weather Service.

In a letter of congratulations, Elbert W. Friday Jr., director of the National Weather Service, said: "Your records enable us to provide an effective climatological service to the nation. Without the efforts of cooperative observers like you, our knowledge of the many climates of the United States would be very incomplete."

He added, "The services you performed are in the highest tradition of our American heritage. The value of these contributions adds directly and indirectly to our social and economic welfare. They are, and will continue to be, important in helping solve problems concerning the conduct of our industry, commerce, and agriculture."

Key started keeping track of the weather in 1939.

In an interview after the presentation, Key recalled that Austin Lang, who was a post office employee, asked her husband, Rollin, to take over the weather

reports.

Faithfully every day at around 5:30 p.m. Key records the high and the low temperature plus the precipitation.

"I think after 50 years I am going to retire," she said. Her daughter, Jackie Stone will take over the weather duties.

For Key it has been an enjoyable 50 years. She liked the contact with the people. Many times people would call at 6 a.m. to find out the temperature.

In those 50 years, the hottest temperature recorded by Key was 115 degrees in July of 1934. The lowest was -38 in January of 1936.

In 1959 it snowed 66 1/2 inches and ten years later Winner received another 66 inches of snow.

The most rainfall was 38.98 inches in 1977.

The instruments used to record the temperature have changed.

In the early years, she would have to go outside to read the temperature.

Now, a small unit sits on top of her refrigerator which gives a digital readout of the temperature. A computer also stores the high and low temperature. With just the press of a button Key can record the temperature extremes each day.

In her back yard is a sensitive temperature recording unit along with a gauge to measure the precipitation.

The Stoll award, which Key received, goes to a cooperative weather observer who has completed 50 years or more of service. It is named after Edward H. Stoll who kept continuous weather records for 76 years.

These are not the only honors Key has received. Over the years she has been recognized for her work. She received the Thomas Jefferson Award in 1983 and the John Campanius Holm award in 1971. The Holm award is named for a Lutheran minister who is the first person known to have taken systematic weather observations in the American colonies.

The Jefferson award is the highest honor paid to a cooperative observer. The award was named for President Jefferson, who began weather observations in 1766 and maintained a virtually unbroken record through 1816.

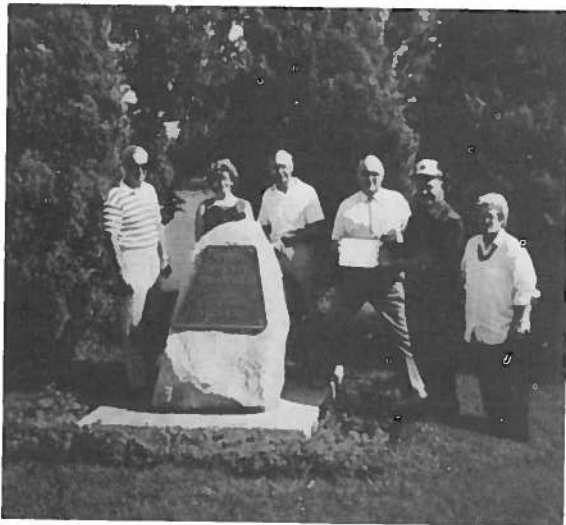
The meteorological data gathered throughout the United States by volunteer observers is valuable to various public and private users including farmers, ranchers, builders and utility companies.

Local weather observers date back to 1849 when Professor Joseph Henry of the Smithsonian Institution established an extensive observation network by supplying weather instruments to telegraph companies.

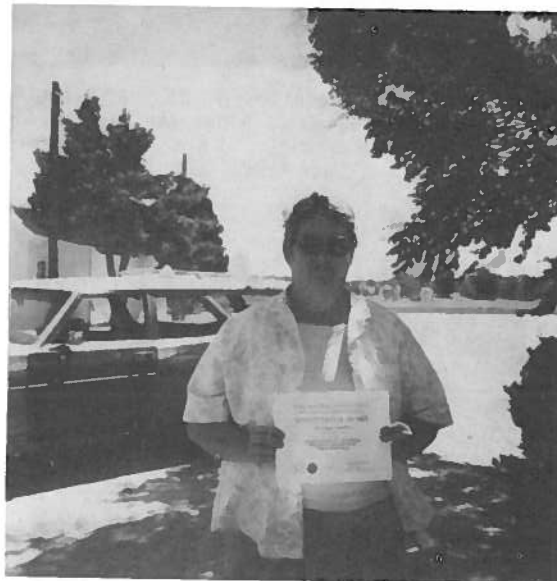
There are currently 190 weather stations in South Dakota.



Roberta Key of Winner has completed a half century as a cooperative weather observer for the National Weather Service. She also received the Edward H. Stoll award. The presentations were made June 30 by David W. Olkiewicz, cooperative program manager with the weather service in Sioux Falls. (Advocate Photo)



A 75-year Institutional award was presented to Northern Great Plains Research Center, Mandan, ND, July 1988. Left to right: Don Stoltz, area manager NWS Bismarck, ND; Martha Roletto, service hydrologist, WSFO Bismarck, ND; Russ Lorenz, former director of research center, 1952-1985; A.L. Black, current director of Research Center, 1979-1988; Harry Stastny, in charge of weather observations at research center, 22 years, 1966-1988; Judy Blank, weather recorder at research center, 10 years, 1978-1988. Picture by Vern Roller, CPM, WSFO Bismarck, ND.



Roberta Huddleston, Office Assistant at the Experimental Station at Tribune 1 W, KS, accepted a 75-year Institutional award from Mike Elias, CPM, GLD.

CENTRAL REGION



Burlington, CO Police Chief Carroll Johnston accepted a 25-year Institutional award from Mike Elias.



Joseph Koehler, Fleming 1 S, CO, was presented a 10-year service award by Mike Elias.



James Shepik, Stambaugh 2 SSE, MI was presented a 25-year Institutional award by Stephen Hicks CPM/ARB.



Walter Wenzlaff, Menona, IL, received a 20-year length-of-service award on May 18th. Walter is 75 years old and operates a wood crafts shop to keep active. Photos by Don Morrison, CPM.



Elsie White, Brandon, CO was presented a 30-year service award by Mike Elias.



Wilbur Paige, (left), Blue Rapids, KS, accepted a 30-year length-of-service award from Gary Funke, CPM-TOP.

SOUTHERN REGION



Louise E. Swinney, observer, Lexington, MS, was presented a 40-year length-of-service award. Mr. Robert Manning (right) is shown making the presentation. Thom Stenman, CPM/JAN, and Lexington

Mayor Fanny Cothran were also present. Mrs. Swinney is also a former recipient of the John Campanius Holm Award. Photo by Mr. Hill of the Holmes County Herald.



Lewis D. Cain, observer, Aleman Ranch, NM, received his 30-year length-of-service award recently. Dick Snyder, CPM/ABQ, made the presentation.



William O. Liston, observer, Lorenzo, TX, received his 40-year length-of-service award from Andy Anderson MIC/AM Lubbock WSFO. Mr. Liston has managed the Higginbotham Lumber Yard at Lorenzo for the past 42 years. He gets many calls and inquiries from his customers on the amount of rainfall and he enjoys keeping the records. Chuck Megee, CPM/LBB.



Edward L. Brosch, observer, Slaton, TX, received his 40-year length-of-service award recently. Mr. Brosch is a farmer and is naturally interested in rainfall records. He is now putting all his records on computer to make it easier for reference. Andy Anderson, MIC/AM (right), and Chuck Megee, CPM/LBB, made the presentation.



S.L. Brunson, observer, Ennis, TX, received his 35-year length-of-service award from Alan Starnes, CPM/ACT.

SOUTHERN REGION



Mr. Marion W. McWhirter has completed over 30 years as the Wolfe City, TX weather observer. Marion was a rural mail carrier for over 30 years before retiring. His career interests now are golf and weather. Award presented by Jerry Wolfe, CPM/FTW.



Nolan Word, observer, Lampasas, TX, was presented a 20-year length-of-service award by Alan Starnes.

(NO PICTURE)

Herschel H. Smith, observer, Avalon, TX, received his 25-year length-of-service award recently. A picture is not available as Mr. Smith is bedridden. Mrs. Smith has been his assistant. The presentation was made by Alan Starnes.

COOPERATIVE OBSERVER AWARDS - SOUTHERN REGION

Helen Pollard, Grandfalls 3 SSE, TX	15 Years
Goodson Sellers, Munday, TX	15 Years
Pauline A. Post, Raymondville, TX	15 Years
C.W. Thornley, Calico Rock 2 WSW, AR	15 Years
Mildred Martin, Smithville 1 W, OK	15 Years
Medford Whisenant, Jr., Pilot Point, TX	15 Years
Mrs. G.A. Hines, Clarksville 2 NE, TX	15 Years
Alma Luehlfing, Canyon Dam #6, TX	15 Years
E.R. Dossman, Hurst Springs, TX	15 Years
Hugh W. Spitchley, Rockport, MS	15 Years
William C. Stewart, Bolton, TN	15 Years
Viola Hollowell, Madison 1 NW, AR	15 Years
Roy Hindes III, Hindes, TX	10 Years
Mrs. W.E. Miller, Sr., Bay Minette 3 NNW	10 Years
Lanette Edmondson, Kendalia, TX	10 Years
Arthur G. Graf, Schulenburg, TX	10 Years
Valerija Woolvin, Sisterdale, TX	10 Years
C.J. Weiser, Houston Satsuma, TX	10 Years
Flor Burgos, Guayabal, PR	10 Years
Elmer E. Smith, Statesville, TN	10 Years
Lonnie G. Cooper, Melbourne 5 WNW	10 Years
Sam Haynes, McLean, TX	10 Years
Wilburt Eason, Collinsville 7 SE, MS	10 Years
H.E. Elliott, Whitsett, TX	10 Years
Audly Harris, Red Rock, TX	10 Years
Bill Krepps, Booneville 3 SSE, AR	10 Years
W.R. Poole, Farmersville, TX	10 Years
Layne Wilkerson, Justin, TX	10 Years
Jon Lee Black, Crowell, TX	10 Years
Charles O. Cook, Hernando, MS	10 Years
Patsy N. Peters, Caryville, FL	10 Years

CPM/SAN ANTONIO RETIRES: John Shelton, Cooperative Program Manager, San Antonio, Texas, retired September 30, 1989, after 37 years of government service, including the last 33 years in the National Weather Service. John was certainly challenged by a variety of weather service positions during his career, with assignments at Asheville, Cordova, Nome, Suitland, Kakiovik, Anchorage, Roswell, and San Antonio.

During the past year, Mr. Shelton achieved a significant milestone in the latest Texas Climatological Data Publication showing his area with no missing reports. The 100% E-15 reception is a first for South Texas. What a wonder way to end a 37-year government career by being on top!

RCPS wishes John a long and happy retirement!

USCOMM-NOAA-ASHEVILLE, N.C.-1989-10,800

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